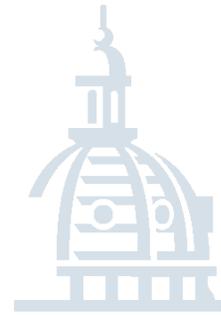




FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

September 6, 2017



STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER TO CLOSE FORT DODGE OFFICE

Office Closure. The Office of the State Public Defender recently announced its plans to close the Fort Dodge office in late September. The decision was made following the departure of two attorneys on staff and the appointment of the supervisor as an associate district court judge. The Fort Dodge office has 5.0 authorized FTEs, which includes two attorneys, a supervisor, a secretary, and an investigator. With the departure of the two attorneys and the supervisor, the secretary and the investigator are the only positions currently filled. The secretary and the investigator will be transferred to the Nevada office, which currently has vacancies for both positions. The Nevada office will take some of the cases from Fort Dodge and the remaining cases will be assumed by private contract attorneys. The Nevada office will be designated to cover Class A and Class B felonies in Webster County. There are no plans to close any of the other 17 local public defender offices.

Funding Distribution. The FY 2018 funding allocated to the Fort Dodge office is \$551,133. A portion of this funding will be transferred to the Nevada office to cover additional expenses from the increased caseload. Another portion will be allocated to the public defender offices with the largest caseloads.

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